

other forms, especially posteriorly, where the dark tone of the hinder back and thighs grades into the dark of the feet, instead of being contrasted with them. Head like body. Dark orbital rings scarcely perceptible. Hairs on back of ears not darker than those on rest of head. Hands and feet wholly dark brown or black.

Hab. Java. Specimens examined from Preanger and Buitenzorg.

XXXIX.—*The Nomenclature of the Flying-Lemurs.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN the 'Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington' Mr. G. S. Miller* has recently drawn attention to the unfortunate fact, first published by Palmer, that the well-known name of *Galeopithecus* is antedated by *Cynocephalus*, each name having the same type, the *Lemur volans* of Linnæus.

But the conclusions drawn by Mr. Miller as to the consequent names of the family and its two constituent genera are, as I believe, all invalidated by the important fact that the type locality of Linnæus's *Lemur volans* is the Philippines, and that therefore the name *volans* and the many generic names based on it, *Cynocephalus*, *Galeopithecus*, *Galeopus*, *Dermopterus*, and *Pleuropterus* †, are, like *Colugo*, all applicable to the Philippine form and not to the Malayan one.

The references are as follows:—

Lemur volans, Linn. Syst. Nat. (10) i. p. 30 (1758), ex Petiver, Bontius, and Seba. The quotations being:—

Cato-Simius volans camelli, Pet.(iver), Gaz.(ophylacii Naturæ et Artis), t. 9. f. 8 (1702); and Act. Angl. 277. n. 1065 (= Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. pt. 277, included in vol. xxiii. 1704).

Vespertilio admirabilis, Bont.(ius), Java, p. 68 (1658).

Felis volans ternatea, Seba, Mus. i. p. 93, pl. 58. figs. 2 & 3 (1735).

Of the three authors quoted, Petiver has to be taken as the primary one, both because I consider it compulsory to take the first one (except when Linnæus quotes his own earlier works) and also, in this case, because the localities given by Bontius and Seba (Guzerat and Ternate respectively) are

* P. Biol. Soc. Wash. xix. p. 41 (1906).

† An additional name, *Galeolemur*, has been formed in the group, based on Temminck's "*Galeopithecus macrurus*" from Ceylon. But this animal proves, as might have been expected from its locality, to have been a Flying-Squirrel (*Petaurista*). Cf. Schlegel, Mon. Singes pp. 335-6 (1876).

both erroneous, no member of the group occurring in either place, so that their account might refer to either the Philippine or Malayan forms.

In Petiver's 'Gazophylacii' the locality is put as "Philippine Islands," and in the Royal Society paper the province Pampanga, in Southern Luzon, is specially mentioned.

As a consequence the synonymy of the Luzon Colugo would be :—

Cynocephalus volans, L.

Lemur volans, L. (as above).

Cynocephalus volans, Bodd. Dierkundig Mengelwerk, ii. p. 8, footnote 1 (1768). (So far as the reference to *Lemur volans* is concerned.)

Galeopithecus volans, Pall. Act. Ac. Petrop. iv. p. 208 (1780). (Reference to *Lemur volans*, but not the specimens figured.)

Galeopithecus philippinensis, Waterh. P. Z. S. 1833, p. 119.

Galeopithecus (Colugo) philippinensis, Gray, Cat. Monk. &c. B.M. p. 98 (1870).

Colugo philippinensis, Miller, l. c.

In drawing up this synonymy I act on the assumption that a generic name must be allocated in accordance with the specific name mentioned by its author as his type, and that if his specimens are wrongly determined, his genus will none the less retain as its genotype the species to which that name is originally and rightly applicable, unless he has guarded himself by expressly stating the contrary*.

This ruling, in extreme cases, may seem contrary to common-sense, but the technical difficulties and confusion resulting from an attempt to make the author's specimens the primary basis for the allocation of his generic name are so great that I am convinced that the plan followed above is alone satisfactory †.

* As Mr. Pocock has done in forming the genus *Phormictopus* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) viii. p. 545, 1901).

† To those who do not admit the general rule here formulated, it may be pointed out that, in this particular case, the question may be said to be determined by the title to Pallas's paper: "*Galeopithecus . volans*, Camellii. descriptus," as it was "the Reverend and Learned Father George Joseph Camel" who sent home from the Philippines the original types of Petiver's description, itself in turn the basis of Linnæus's *Lemur volans*.

Moreover, there is no hope of saving the time-honoured name of *Galeopithecus*, which might have been a temptation to abandon the simple rule of making generic names follow specific ones; for *Cynocephalus* antedates *Galeopithecus* by many years, and has absolutely the same basis, i. e. *volans* as type-species name, with references to Pallas's animal and that figured by Seba.

The only result therefore, in this case, of refusing adherence to the above rule, would be the disaster of having the confusing name *Cyno-*

For example, in literally hundreds of cases genera have been based on earlier described species without any clear description of the specific characters of the specimens representing, in the eyes of their founders, the species named as genotypes. It would be preposterous to maintain that any or all such names might be upset or transferred merely by evidence (perhaps disputable) being brought forward (say in the form of labelled specimens) that what the genus-founder thought was one species was really another belonging to a different genus.

The author must suffer the penalty for his own mistakes, and if he makes a genus for, say, *Lemur volans*, to *Lemur volans* (*i. e.* the true original *L. volans*) his name must stick, whether his specimens were rightly determined or not.

As a result, the common Malay Colugo would seem to be without a generic name, and I would propose for it that of *Galeopterus*, like enough to recall the familiar *Galeopithecus*, different enough to avoid confusion. And as genotype I would take Waterhouse's *G. temminckii*, of which the typical skull has been figured and is now in the British Museum*.

Following out Mr. Miller's sensible suggestion that the name *Cynocephalus* should not be made the basis of the family name in this group, and being prohibited by the rules from using his name Colugidæ, I would call the family Galeopteridæ.

The group names would then be:—

Suborder DERMOPTERA.

Family Galeopteridæ.

Genus I. GALEOPTERUS.

Type. *G. temminckii*. Range. Malay Peninsula and Islands.

Genus II. CYNOCEPHALUS.

Syn. *Galeopithecus* and *Colugo*.

Type. *G. volans*. Range. Philippine Islands.

With regard to the species of *Galeopterus*, I am at present only able to state that *G. temminckii*, Waterh., appears to be the name of the Sumatran form, and *G. undatus*, Wagn., that of the large, large-toothed Javan species.

There is an extreme resemblance between the Colugos of the Malay Peninsula, Natuna Islands, and Borneo; indeed I fail to find any cranial difference whatever between examples

cephalus for the Common Colugo, instead of its being relegated to comparative obscurity as the name of the rare and seldom-quoted Philippine species.

* *Tomes coll., ex Zool. Soc. Mus., B.M. no. 7. 1. 1. 220.*

from Pinang, Bunguran (typical of *natunæ*, Miller), and North Borneo. On the other hand, the Malay specimens vary immensely among themselves, sometimes even when coming from the same locality.

In this connection it is to be noted that while most of Mr. Miller's insular species of mammals have been founded on fine series of specimens, those of *Galeopterus* have, with one exception, been based on either one or two examples, and therefore he has hardly had sufficient material to test the cranial variability of these animals.

XL.—*Three new African Species of Mus.*

By R. C. WROUGHTON.

THE recent receipt by the Natural History Museum of a collection (Rudd Exploration) from Tette containing specimens of the multimammate group of mice, and thus fixing Peters's *Mus microdon*, of which they are the topotypes, led me to examine all the individuals representing this group in the Museum Collection. The species of this group extend almost all over Africa, filling the place which *Micromys* occupies in Europe. The National Collection possesses fine series from many localities, but nevertheless insufficient to justify a monograph of the whole group; two forms, however, which came under my notice are sufficiently distinct to be worthy of description.

Mus huberti, sp. n.

A multimammate mouse rather larger than *M. erythroleucus* and of a paler colour.

Fur rather short, 7–8 mm. long on the back.

General colour above near "wood-brown," below pale grey. Individual hairs of the upper surface pale slate-grey basally, tipped with black, and with a subterminal pale buff ring; of under surface pale grey basally, white at the point. Chin, hands, and feet white.

Skull markedly larger than in *M. erythroleucus*.

Dimensions:—

Head and body (circ.) 135 mm.; tail (circ.) 135; hind foot 27; ear 19.

Skull: greatest length 32; zygomatic breadth 16; diastema 9; upper molar series 4.9.

Hab. N. Nigeria (type from Zungeru).

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 4. 7. 9. 18. Original